

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting for the above-reference subcommittee held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 1, 2015 in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Present Committee Members were: Councilors Seldon, Neuwirth and Washington

Also present were: Camilla Jones, Director of Social & Youth Services, Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director of Senior Services, Jane Low, Chair of Beautification Committee, Marie MacDonald, Chair of CEEC, Donna Banks Back to School Fun Fair, Sharron Howe, Assistant to the Town Manager and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor Neuwirth, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of June 9, 2015.

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Senior Services

Mrs. Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director of Senior Services reported the following updates of the department upcoming events:

- Mrs. Huyghue-Pannell reported that the department will hire a full time Mini Bus driver by end of September due to a resignation.
- It was also reported that Mrs. Lucy Peoples will be retiring after 18 years of service at the end of December 2015.
- There are a total of 8 UCONN Nursing students who will shadow the Public Health nurse and develop various programs such as: relaxation techniques and yoga.
- The interns from the College of Holy Cross finished their assignment in August 2015.
- A new intern from the University of St. Joseph's will begin to support and implement new programming at the Senior Center.

- A grant was received by the State of Connecticut to develop a moveable senior center program for municipalities: Avon, Canton, Newington, Simsbury and Bloomfield to address the LBGT community. This program will meet once a month at each respective senior center.
- There will be a Town Hall Greeter Luncheon held in October 2015 to honor volunteers and their dedication to the town.
- The department will sponsor a program to assist seniors with shopping for electricity prices.

Social & Youth Services

Mrs. Camilla Jones, Director of Social & Youth Services reported the following updates of the department:

- Energy Assistance began accepting applications on September 1, 2015.
- The Season of Giving – Annual Holiday Program registration will begin on October 1, 2015 for low income families with children 13 and younger.
- The Renter Rebate application deadline is October 1, 2015. Thus far, 350 applications have been processed. Contact Social & Youth Services at 860-242-1895 for an appointment.
- Access Health Insurance open enrollment will begin on November 15, 2015 – February 15, 2016. Medicare Open Enrollment will begin on October 15 – December 7, 2015.
- The 2nd Annual Boo Bash will be held on October 23, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- There is an open position in Youth Services for a Juvenile Justice worker. There were 23 applicants, in which the most qualified will be scheduled for interviews.
- BSYS will spearhead and coordinate the town's Safe Home Taskforce to address potential and existing hoarding cases as well as unsafe living environments.

Leisure Services - Parks and Recreation

The Fall and Winter brochure is now available! Leisure Services encourage residents to participate in the following upcoming events:

- Family Flashlight Hike at Wilcox Park on Friday, September 25, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
- Lyman's Orchard Corn Maze – Saturday, October 3, 2015 from 12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m.
- Pumpkin's Carving – Friday, October 16, 2015 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

- Fall Foliage Hike at Penwood State Park on Saturday, October 17, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

Beautification Committee

Mrs. Jane Low, Chair of the Beautification Committee reported the following updates:

Home Depot donated and planted a beautiful flower garden around the “Human Services” sign located at 330 Park Avenue.

Mrs. Low stated that it was a difficult summer for garden beds around town due to the lack of rain. There are plans to discuss several options with Public Works for next summer to increase the water supply.

The Green Machine reported that the water irrigation system is ready for installation at the intersection of Cottage Grove Road and Blue Hills Avenue. This system must be inspected by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC).

Fall mums have been ordered and will be planted during the week of September 21, 2015.

The Beautification Committee will present their Annual Beautification Awards at the October 26, 2015 Town Council meeting.

Clean Energy and Conservation Committee (CEEC)

Ms. Marie MacDonald, Chair of the CEEC reported the following updates:

CEEC is proud to announce the new Business Energy Initiative co-sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. On September 30, 2015 at 5:30 p.m., the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce will host “Power Down After Hours” at Carbone’s Kitchen, 6 Wintonbury Mall. This event will give businesses an opportunity to speak and connect with energy experts about programs, rebates, incentives and funding resources that make energy efficiency updates fit.

The Bloomfield Recycling brochure is in its final stages of design. The goal is to include this information for distribution of the Town’s newsletter.

CEEC has expressed concerns regarding the potential for gas pipelines to be installed in town. CEEC will submit a position paper regarding their position as the town’s environmental committee.

Mr. Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager instructed Mr. Jonathan Thiesse to contact Tennessee Gas to accept an invitation to host a public forum in Bloomfield to discuss the impacts of new gas line.

For all new construction projects in town, CEEC have recommended more standardization on energy efficiency for buildings. Committee members suggested that CEEC should contact TPZ Chair, Barry Berson to discuss this potential project.

Mrs. MacDonald also inquired about what towns in the Greater Hartford region have existing ordinances about green buildings?

The Home Energy Solutions Program in conjunction with the Prosser Fund and Social Services will conduct financial assessment for individuals eligible for the project. Individuals who are 60 and over can received financial assistance for the one-time fee of \$99.00 for a complete energy assessment.

There is currently one vacant Democratic opening with the requirement for 2 seats dedicated to individuals serving on the Inland/Wetlands Commission. Mrs. MacDonald requested that Council reconsider this stipulation.

Back to School Fun Fair

On August 22, 2015, the Back to School Fun Fair was held at 330 Park Avenue. Overall, it was a great day. There were approximately 40 vendors, in which over 500 backpacks were distributed to Bloomfield students.

There were some issues to review and address prior to the next event to be held on August 27, 2016. Ms. Banks agreed that the on-site registration worked out well. However, the new marketing tool for this event by the Bloomfield Board of Education. A call was made to every household in Bloomfield informing parents and students about the Back to School Fun Fair.

The committee discussed the pros and cons for on-site registration and pre-registration.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Neuwirth, seconded by Councilor Seldon and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.